



Branching Out

February 27, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

This week's issue is a little shorter. It needs to be sent in a few days early in order to appear on the website by Friday.

TREE meetings:

Next meeting April 21, 11 am, at beautiful Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Montross VA. We will get a special tour of the mansion, and have a chance to walk the nature trails or go down to find shark's teeth on the fossil beach. Visit their website at www.stratfordhall.org

Local Events:

March 5, Babes in the Woods: Is that Baby Animal Really Orphaned? 1-3 pm

Belle Isle State Park continues the Winter Warmers series with Diana O'Connor, resident rehabilitator of Wild Bunch wildlife refuge in Warsaw. Every spring they care for hundreds of baby animals brought to them by well-meaning citizens, and answer hundreds of phone calls related to the "orphaned animals." In many cases these animals are not orphaned at all. Mothers routinely leave their young in a protected spot while they forage for food, returning several times during the day to feed and care for their young. This talk will demonstrate how to tell if an animal has been orphaned and what to do if one is found.

Diana O'Connor is the resident rehabilitator. Diana has been rehabbing for 18 years and, in the year 2008, cared for over 700 animals, including virtually all of the native mammals and birds found in our area. Her husband, Dennis, is extremely supportive, and spends his weekends working on refuge improvements.

March 14 Lauck's Island Tour & Picnic

Hop into rafts and float over to explore this fascinating island in the Rappahannock. Dr. Robert Wheeler and naturalist guides will take participants on an interpretive hike to visit the old homestead ruins, identify native plants, and much more! Bring a bag lunch for a picnic on the island's beach. This is a great family event. Minimum age is 6 yrs. 10 am-3 pm. *Backup: March 15.* The cost is \$20 for an individual and \$60 for a family (up to four people). Pre-registration required, call Friends of the Rappahannock at 540-373-3448 to register.

March 14 Go Green for St. Patrick's Day at Belle Isle State Park 9 am to noon

Don't just wear green, be green for St. Patrick's Day. Learn ways to help the earth and the Chesapeake Bay through games and interactive exhibits by the Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, SAIF wells, Belle Isle State Park, and others. Make a T-Shirt bag to take home at no extra cost. \$2 per person, with a maximum of \$6 per family.

Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local—Food for Thought

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners will present their annual Gardening the Northern Neck seminar on Saturday, March 21, 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Church of the Nazarene in White Stone. Morning and afternoon keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and a market place are planned. For more information and registration details call the Northumberland Extension office at (804) 580-5694 or e-mail kingdon@kaballero.com

Boy Scout Conclave 2009

April 25th, Jamaica, VA

Interested in getting your message to hundreds of scouts? Join the fun at their annual conclave with a booth and hands-on activities.

For more information, contact [David Singletary](#)

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

There's a new "green" gardening site that will be of interest to environmental organizations.
www.wildlifegardeners.org

In addition to educational forums, they have created an area specifically for environmentally responsible individuals and organizations where they may be able to share any information they'd like about their organization to include a direct link to their site and contact information. This is a great area for local Audubon chapters, native plant societies, nature centers, native plant nurseries, wildlife rehabbers, organizations such as Wild Ones, and even "green" bloggers. They hope being others who are like minded will use this area as a resource. The strings attached to the above offer would be that those who are given a free slot be "green" and that they try their best to share their gifts and talents when possible by posting in the forums a little bit and particularly if they see someone who could use a helping hand. It's a great thing when knowledge and experience can be shared.

They also offer an events calendar. It is editable by registered members. Anyone who has knowledge of native plants sales, symposiums, or workshops to share details with members.

Should you choose to register, please know our system ask you for a date of birth for the sole purpose of complying with the Federal Trade Commission. We are fully COPPA compliant.

www.coppa.org

Interior Nominee Praised for Children and Nature Efforts

Supporters of the children and nature movement were quick to praise President Barack Obama's nominee for Secretary of the Interior, Colorado Senator Ken Salazar. In the words of National Park Trust Board Chairman William Brownell, Senator Salazar "has substantial experience with parks and public lands and has shown a clear commitment throughout his career to reconnecting children and nature."

[read the article](#) [+]

Volunteer Opportunities

March 28 Operation Spruce-Up 2009

Join us this Saturday to spruce up the FOR headquarters. We need help with trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, and other outdoor work on the property. Come prepared to work outside and get your hands dirty. Starts at 9 am. Register in advance.

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact jtritz@vt.edu